

Message Text

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41

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 SP-03 PRS-01 INR-10 L-03 PM-07

NEA-14 DRC-01 RSC-01 /075 W
----- 025852

R 231211Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3558

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 8442

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TH, US, IO, PFOR

SUBJ: USN INDIAN OCEAN PATROLS FROM UTAPAO

REFS: (A) BANGKOK 8190 (B) MACTHAI 160850Z MAY 74 (NOTAL)
(C) STATE 107590

1. WE BELIEVE THAT ATTEMPTS TO LIMIT BRIEFING PROPOSED
BY DOD TO DIEGO GARCIA WOULD NOT FOOL THE PRESS AND WOULD
BE FOLLOWED BY STORIES CITING USE OF UTAPAO. BRIEFING WOULD
STIMULATE QUERIES SUCH AS FOLLOWING, SOME OF WHICH HAVE
ALREADY BEEN POSED TO US BY RESIDENT CORRESPONDENTS:

- A. IF THERE ARE NO P-3S STATIONED IN DG, ARE THOSE
PLANES THEN STAGING OUT OF UTAPAO RTN?
- B. WHAT IS THE LINK BETWEEN THE P-3S AT UTAPAO AND
THOSE AT DIEGO? IS THERE A CIRCUIT BETWEEN THE TWO
PLACES, OR WHAT?
- C. HOW MANY P-3S FLY PATROLS OUT OF UTAPAO ITSELF?
- D. HOW OFTEN ARE THESE PATROLS FROM UTAPAO FLOWN OVER
THE INDIAN OCEAN?
- E. WHAT IS THE RTG ATTITUDE CONCERNING USE OF UTAPAO
FOR THIS ACTIVITY? DO WE HAVE THEIR FULL CONCURRENCE?
- F. MAY WE INTERVIEW THE CREWS? IF NOT, WHY NOT?

2. AT PRESENT TIME WE COULD NOT SAY, AS IN PROPOSED SEVENTH
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RESPONSE, THAT OPERATION OF THE P-3S IS BEING CONDUCTED

WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF RTG. IF SUBJECT IS ROILED PRIOR
TO OUR PROVIDING FULL, MORE ACCURATE INFORMATION TO RTG,
AS PROPOSED REF B, WE MUST ANTICIPATE UNHELPFUL RTG
REPLIES AND POSSIBLY ACTIONS. WE DO NOT WISH TO PROPOSE
REPLIES TO QUESTIONS UNTIL WE HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF SUPREME
COMMAND, TO GUAGE RTG RESPONSE AND TO ENSURE THAT BOTH SUPREME
COMMAND AND MFA ARE PREPARED TO COPE WITH NEWSMEN'S QUERIES.

3. THEREFORE, FROM BANGKOK, WE WOULD PREFER THAT DEPART-
MENT WITHHOLD CONCURRENCE IN DOD'S QS AND AS ON DG UNTIL
ACTION CAN BE TAKEN ALONG LINES PROPOSED REF B.
MASTERS

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